

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE****Method for varying the power consumption of capacitive loads**

The invention relates to a method for varying the power consumption of capacitive loads, in particular compact fluorescent lamps which are operated using a phase-gating dimmer by means of a converter (step-up converter). According to the invention, in the case of a nonconducting dimmer (i.e. no system power supply to the load), the switch (T1) in the converter (step-up converter) is closed. In the case of a conducting dimmer (i.e. when a system voltage is applied to the load), the step-up converter operation takes place until a predetermined maximum voltage is reached across the smoothing capacitor of the load.

Figure 2